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60-85/57-520

JAN 31 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

THROUGH: Director of Communications

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SUBJECT: Materiel Support Functions and Responsibilities

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REFERENCE: dated 10 January 1957

1. In reviewing a copy of referenced dispatch concerning materiel support functions and responsibilities, I noted several statements pertaining to Office of Communications technical functions in the materiel support field which might be subject to some misinterpretation if not related to the Office of Logistics basic responsibilities for materiel support. The statements in question are the following:

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"...Office of Communications must have jurisdictional control over the operation of forward depots."
 "...Office of Communications is responsible for controlling the . . . stock levels and issuance of communications equipment. Therefore, Office of Communications must maintain appropriate control records."

2. Although materiel or logistical support is not specifically mentioned in paragraph 7, (which sets forth the mission and basic functions of the Office of Communications) it may be reasonably inferred that, as a condition precedent to the Director of Communications discharging his basic responsibility for "providing the communications support necessary to the accomplishment of various missions of CIA", technical cognizance over communications materiel is essential. In paragraph 9 of on the other hand, the Director of Logistics is specifically charged with the fundamental responsibility for all Agency logistics support in terms such as "planning and implementing Agency logistics support", "providing for the procurement, distribution, accountability, and disposal of Agency equipment, supplies . . .", ". . . the development of supply programs, stock levels . . .", and ". . . administering an integrated stock accounting system".

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3. Implicit in the foregoing is a close coordination relationship in a given situation (as in the case of) between the activity responsible for technical logistics activity) between the activity responsible for technical cognizance and the activity charged with basic responsibility for all aspects of logistics support. However, for purposes of general guidance at the headquarters level and applicability to specific overseas situations, I feel that the following establishes appropriate guide lines as to respective spheres of responsibility and relationship:

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a. The screening, coordinating and approving of technical requirements from a communications planning and operational viewpoint is a responsibility of the Office of Communications prior to submission to the Office of Logistics for necessary logistics action. The actual issuance of such equipment and the administrative actions attendant thereto will be based on policies and procedures established by the Office of Logistics.

b. Based on a consideration of known requirements and planned requirements as established by, and in coordination with, the Office of Communications, a stock level for such items is authorized by the Office of Logistics. A stock level having been established, the Office of Logistics is responsible for procurement and associated logistics actions required to assure availability of the necessary type and amount of materiel in a depot.

c. Inasmuch as the Agency logistics system is not of a magnitude to merit at this time communication supply specialists, the Office of Logistics must look to the Office of Communications for the appropriate technical assistance and advice required in the inspection, surveillance, and maintenance of communications equipment. However, the Office of Logistics still retains basic responsibility for the inspection, maintenance and surveillance of all Agency materiel.

d. The depot in which the materiel is located is a part of the Agency logistics system and, by virtue of this, is subject to the same degree of control by the Office of Logistics as any other depot in the system. The basic control system for handling materiel in that depot is the logistics accountable

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system established by the Office of Logistics. Any control records desired by the Office of Communications over and above those required by the logistics accountable system are the prerogatives of the Office of Communications.

4. It would appear that control of forward or overseas depots, insofar as headquarters is concerned, is fundamentally a command responsibility of the appropriate DD/P component and is handled through appropriate command channels. From a headquarters staff viewpoint, it is a basic responsibility of the Office of Logistics irrespective of what elements of the Agency are actually operating the depot inasmuch as the depot must be an integral part of the Agency logistics system.

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5. I believe that, as presented, the detailed proposals contained in recognize and conform to these principles but that the general policy statements contained in referenced dispatch required the clarification presented above.

cc: D/CO



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